

**MINUTES OF
FAUQUIER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 29, 2003**

Members Present: Matthew Smith, Chairman; Per Bang-Jensen, Vice-Chairman; Laurence Mason, Garrett Moore, Gary Nelson, Sam Poles and Liz Cook.

Members Absent: J. David Cubbage; Sharon Grove McCamy and Ann McCarty.

Guests Present: Chuck Medvitz

1. Approval of September 9, 2003 and September 24, 2003 Committee Meeting Minutes.

Per Bang-Jensen stated that he would like to amend Item #6 so that it reads as follows: "...Per Bang-Jensen stated that the Committee had previously discussed closing ~~only~~ those unsafe crossovers only in the southern part of the County as a first step rather than the entire County. ***Garrett Moore will review the information previously provided by VDOT and report back to the Committee at its next meeting.***"

On motion made by Per Bang-Jensen and seconded by Larry Mason, it was moved to approve the September 9, 2003 and September 24, 2003 Committee meeting minutes, as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Consider Making a Recommendation on the Secondary Road Six-Year Plan Scheduled for Board of Supervisors Public Hearing on November 17, 2003.

Garrett Moore distributed a worksheet outlining his recommendations on the Secondary Road Six-Year Plan. Mr. Moore indicated that the major changes involve his concern about bridges within the County that need to be upgraded for safety reasons as well as secondary roads in Service Districts. Mr. Moore stated that two sections of Broad Run Church Road (Route 600) have been added to the end of the list.

Mr. Moore recommended that a citizen's advisory group be organized when improvements to Route 29 and the Route 215 realignment are being considered.

Mr. Moore stated that the bridge on Tapps Ford Road (Route 645) has been moved ahead of the New Baltimore items.

Discuss Academy Hill Road at January Committee meeting.

On motion made by Matthew Smith and seconded by Sam Poles, it was moved to forward the proposed Six-Year Plan for Secondary Roads, as amended with Garrett Moore to check on the status of Routes 607, 800, 663 and to move Tapps Ford Road before Route 600, to the Board of Supervisors with a recommendation of approval. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Receive an Update on the Route 29 Crossover Study.

Garrett Moore discussed the *Virginia Department of Transportation's Safety Improvement Plan for Crossovers Along Route 17, 15, 29 & 211 in Fauquier County, Virginia*. Mr. Moore indicated that VDOT initiated an assessment of the existing crossover (median break) locations along Route 29 from the Culpeper to Prince William County lines. The purpose of the study was to target potential safety

improvements and possible closures. This study provides a detailed review for all crossovers along Route 29, and targets potential safety improvements and possible closures. VDOT indicates that nationwide studies have successfully shown the importance of four factors when considering median breaks:

Sight Distance: The traveler along the mainline as well as the occupant of the median break should have clear sight of potential conflicts. In most cases, this is measured in relationship to the mainline operating speed. VDOT uses approximately 10 feet for every mile per hour speed. Simply put, if you are entering a roadway with traffic averaging 60 mph then your minimum length of sight should be no less than 600 feet.

Reaction Time & Breaking: The amount of time required for the average driver to respond to obstacles in the roadway.

Deceleration and Storage: This is the amount of lane and taper needed to allow the vehicle leaving the mainline at speed to safely decelerate and negotiate a turn without a rapid stop. A critically undersized turn lane can lead to vehicles “spilling out” into mainline traffic that presents a hazardous situation.

Separation: The amount of roadway between two median openings. This factor carries with it many issues. For example, the speed, rural or urban environments, growth potential, terrain and access points are included in this consideration. The sum of all of these issues makes rigid spacing intervals difficult to project. The American Association of State Highway Officials (AASHTO) recommends preferred spacing of 0.25 to 0.5 mile.

While all the above factors have interrelated considerations, the safe operation of the highway and a desirable level of service are the goals of improvements recommended in VDOT’s Safety Improvement Plan for Crossovers.

A component of the Safety Improvement Plan is access management, which is described as follows: “Access management is the process that provides access to land development while preserving traffic flow for the purpose of enhancing highway safety and capacity. One component of the access management process involves providing adequate spacing between intersections or median crossovers to allow motorists sufficient time to react to potential conflict locations. With a good access management plan the flow of traffic can be improved and safety enhanced with less potential for accidents. The goal of this safety improvement plan for crossovers is to provide a comprehensive and uniform implementation strategy to improve overall safety along the U.S. Route 29 corridor.”

Gary Nelson expressed concern about Item 20.2 (crossover near Battlefield Baptist Church) listed in the proposal. Mr. Nelson stated that posting a “No U-Turn” sign at this location would mean motorists would have to go to Route 676 in order to turn around. Mr. Nelson stated that this will cause problems with motorists on Route 676 who are trying to make right and left hand turns, which would also be a safety concern. Mr. Nelson expressed further concern that posting a “No U-Turn” sign or closing the crossover near Battlefield Baptist Church will have a significant impact on church traffic as well. Garrett Moore suggested changing this item to read “Possible long-term closure”.

On motion made by Gary Nelson and seconded by Sam Poles it was moved to forward a recommendation of approval to the Board of Supervisors to support and implement the findings and recommendations of the *Virginia Department of Transportation Safety Improvement Plan for Crossovers along U.S. Route 17, 15, 29 & 211 in Fauquier County, Virginia*, with the closure of Item 20.2 removed. The motion carried unanimously.

4. *Receive an Update on Atoka Road (Route 713), Halfway Road (Route 626) and Zulla Road (Route 709) Speed Limit Reduction Requests.*

Garrett Moore stated that VDOT's Traffic Engineers are still reviewing these items.

5. *Discuss the Transportation Committee Web Page.*

Liz Cook stated that she is working on updating the Committee's web page. After discussion, it was agreed that Committee member's names and telephone numbers would be posted on the web page.

6. *Discuss Schedule for November and December Transportation Committee Meetings.*

Matthew Smith stated that there will be a combined November/December Committee meeting held on Wednesday, December 3, 2003 at 7:00 P.M. in the Fourth Floor Conference Room, County Court and Office Building. In the event this room is not available, the meeting will be held in the Virginia Department of Transportation Conference Room, 457 East Shirley Avenue, Warrenton, VA.

6. *Other Items.*

Per Bang-Jensen requested an update on the speed limit in Turnbull. Garrett Moore stated that this has been sent to VDOT Traffic Engineering, but he has not received any further information from them.

Garrett Moore stated that Courtney's Corner Road and Ritchie Road will be posted next week.

Liz Cook stated that she has received an e-mail from residents of Chimney Lake Lane asking that no improvements be made to this road.

Liz Cook stated that she will contact Mr. Fred Beaudry and suggest he call either Sam Poles or Garrett Moore for more information on the status of Hume Road (Route 635) and Leeds Manor Road (Route 688).

Sam Poles stated that Dr. David Collins has property on both sides of Stillhouse Road, which washed out during a recent storm. Mr. Poles stated that Four Dogs Construction Company has made some repairs to this road, but requested that VDOT take a look at it. ***Garrett Moore will make a site visit and report back to the Committee.***

Liz Cook stated that she has received a letter from Thomas G. Ryon concerning Wade Court, which is located in Auburn Mill Estates. Ms. Cook stated that there was a bond posted on Wade Court, but it has expired. A new developer came in and sold the houses, but did not make the necessary road improvements. The County and VDOT are investigating to see if some of the Six-Year funds could possibly be used for this project.

Liz Cook stated that a copy of the Star Solutions CD entitled "Detailed Proposal for Improvements to the Interstate 81 Corridor" is available for review in the Department of Community Development.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 P.M.